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Medication therapy management programs

ISSUE: The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 requires Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage drug plans (MA-PDs) to implement medication therapy management programs (MTMPs) to improve the quality of pharmaceutical care received by high-risk beneficiaries. Plans account for the cost of their MTMPs within their bids as administrative costs. At issue is whether current MTMPs provided under Part D are improving enrollees' quality of care.

KEY POINTS: A small percentage of beneficiaries are currently enrolled in MTMPs. Plans are characterized by wide variation. For example, MTMPs differ on the number and type of chronic conditions and prescriptions a beneficiary must have to be eligible, how beneficiaries are targeted and enrolled, the kinds of interventions provided to enrollees and the outcomes that plans measure.

For this presentation, we review research evaluating medication therapy management programs and summarize available data on MTMPs provided under Part D. We will also provide insights from structured interviews we conducted with CMS, pharmacists, health plans, pharmacies, trade associations, and companies that provide MTM services under contract to plans.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss future directions for this research.

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